

**JUAN VERA-VEGA, MA**  
**Nautical Archeologist**

**Biography**

Juan Vera-Vega holds a BA in Anthropology from the University of Puerto Rico Río Piedras Campus. He also holds an MA in Anthropology with a specialization in Nautical Archeology from the University of Texas A&M (1991).

Vera-Vega started working at the Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña (ICP) in 1988 as the deputy director of the Council of Nautical Archeology. In the year 2001 Vera-Vega started archeological investigations in the surrounding areas of the Fort. The South-East corner of Fort San Gerónimo del Morro's foundation was compromised and with his intervention and assistance from the US Army Corps of Engineer in collaboration with the ICP the situation was stabilized.

Vera-Vega became Director of the Council of Nautical Archeology in 1996. Throughout the past twenty years he has constantly collaborated with the Council. He has participated with the National Park Service (NPS) of seminars, workshops, and lab training regarding the historic structures. He can attest to the value of the support provided by the NPS.

Vera-Vega works on nautical cultural patrimony. Since the Fort San Gerónimo del Boquerón is built over the terrestrial maritime zone, he has had access to, provided services at, and specialized on the conservation, restoration and preservation of the Fort. The Nautical Archeologists are the experts on site that address the sub-aquatic challenges of these properties.

Vera-Vega has participated of seminars where the lecturer is Frank Matero, who has served as Director of Preservation at the University of Pennsylvania (previously hired by NPS to address the challenges at El Morro and San Cristobal). Vera-Vega has consulted and worked together with James Mason (who works at NPS), an Engineer specialized in military structures specifically on cracks and their reparation.

Juan Vera-Vega has been present at different events that impacted Fort San Gerónimo del Boquerón including wave surges, hurricanes, storms, earthquakes, and other threats such as nearby constructions. He has made ample, detailed research regarding the historic structures and the elements that could affect them. He has led restoration efforts at the Fort and ensured that conservation costs are abated when possible, through for example, the participation of volunteers.

Vera-Vega also serves at ICP as a specialist on nautical archeology and also facilitates guided historical tours, particularly at Fort San Gerónimo. Since 2007 he leads activities at request of community members and other visitors, including school tours at the Fort.